

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09547 051036Z

15

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R 050902Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7048

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 9547

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PK, IN

SUBJ: PAKISTAN PROTESTS DAM PROJECT IN KASHMIR

SUMMARY: PAKISTAN HAS RAISED OBJECTIONS TO A PROPOSED HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN KASHMIR ON THE GROUNDS IT DOES NOT CONFORM TO TERMS OF INDUS WATERS TREATY. A PROTEST WILL BE LODGED AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TEXT OF THE GOI STATEMENT AS ISSUED BY THE STATE-OWNED NEWS AGENCY FOLLOWS:

" PAKISTAN HAS OBJECTED TO THE DESIGN OF THE SALAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT, BEING CONSTRUCTED BY INDIA ON THE CHENAB RIVER NEAR DYANGARH IN OCCUPIED KASHMIR, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE CRITERIA LAID DOWN IN THE INDUS WATERS TREATY FOR THE DESIGN OF SUCH HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS.

" THE INDUS WATERS TREATY OF 1960 BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN PROVIDES FOR CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS FOR PAKISTAN BY STIPULATING THE DESIGN CRITERIA WHICH MUST BE FOLLOWED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS ON THE WESTERN

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 09547 051036Z

RIVERS (CHENAB, JHELMUM AND INDUS) IN INDIA AND OCCUPIED

KASHMIR. THE PURPOSE OF THESE SAFEGUARDS IS TO ENSURE THAT PAKISTAN'S IRRIGATION FROM THESE RIVERS IS NOT AFFECTED ADVERSELY.

"THE INDIAN PROJECT AIMS AT CONSTRUCTING A 300 FT. HIGH DAM FOR GENERATING ABOUT 270 MW OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER. IT IS CLAIMED THAT THE SALAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC STATION WOULD BE A RUN-OF-THE RIVER PLANT AND WOULD NOT HAVE ANY LIVE STORAGE.

"THE SITE OF THE PROJECT WAS VISITED BY THE PAKISTAN COMMISSIONER FOR INDUS WATERS, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO ADVISERS, ON SEP 23 AND SEP 24. IT WAS FOUND DURING THE VISIT THAT SOME OF THE WORKS RELATING TO IT HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN UP FOR CONSTRUCTION.

" IT WAS AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSION, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PAKISTAN COMMISSIONER FOR INDUS WATERS, TO DISCUSS PAKISTAN'S OBJECTION TO THE DESIGN OF THE PROJECT AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSIONER, UNDER ARTICLE IX(I) OF THE TREATY WHICH PROVIDES THAT: "ANY QUESTION WHICH ARISES BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNING THE INTERPRETATION OR APPLICATION OF THIS TREATY OR THE EXISTENCE OF ANY FACT WHICH, IF ESTABLISHED, MIGHT CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF THIS TREATY SHALL FIRST BE EXAMINED BY THE COMMISSION, WHICH WILL ENDEAVOUR (SIC) TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION BY AGREEMENT."

"THE PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSION CONSISTS OF COMMISSIONER FROM EACH COUNTRY.

"THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

". IF THE MATTER CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY THE PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSION, THE RESULTING CONFERENCE CAN BE REFERRED TO A NEUTRAL EXPERT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY. THE DECISION OF THE NEUTRAL EXPERT WILL BE BINDING ON BOTH THE PARTIES."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 09547 051036Z

COMMENT: DOUBTLESS AT GOP PROMPTING THE PRESS HAS GIVEN HEADLINE TREATMENT TO PAK OBJECTIONS, AND RADIO BROADCASTS ALSO HAVE FEATURED ISSUE. PAKS ARE ALWAYS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT SENSITIVE ISSUE OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE PROMINENT TREATMENT GIVEN THE SALAL PROJECT REFLECTS GOP DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THAT THIS PROJECT AND ANY OTHER SUCH PROJECT CONTEMPLATED BY GOI IS IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF INDUS WATERS TREATY.

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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: ECIN, PK, IN
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